

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (new) A method of releasing a restricted functionality of an electronic appliance, comprising:

(1) executing, on one or more host devices connected to said electronic appliance, a functionality restriction release program to release the restricted functionality of said electronic appliance;

(2) communicating, between said one or more host devices and said electronic appliance, information relating to the release of the restricted functionality of said electronic appliance; and as a result of acts (1) and (2),

(3) releasing the restricted functionality of said electronic appliance.

8. (new) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

identifying one or more of said host devices; and

wherein said restricted functionality of said electronic appliance is released so that said restricted functionality may be used by only one of said one or more host devices.

9. (new) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

the host determining the status of said restricted functionality; and

enabling a driver on said one or more host devices to control said released functionality on said electronic appliance.

10. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein acts (1) and (2) are performed by a selected host device, and further comprising disabling one or more drivers on said one or more other host devices from controlling one or more functionalities of said electronic appliance for which a functionality restriction has not been released.

11. (new) The method of claim 7 for releasing a restricted functionality of an electronic appliance, wherein said functionality may be used by said host device connected to said electronic appliance.

12. (new) The method of claim 11, further comprising releasing, as a result of said communicating act, the restricted functionality of said electronic appliance so that said functionality may be used by multiple host devices connected to said electronic appliance.

13. (new) The method of claim 7, further comprising installing the functionality restriction release program stored on recording media and executing the functionality restriction release program upon installation for automatically releasing the restricted functionality of said electronic appliance.

14. (new) An electronic appliance having one or more restricted functionalities, wherein said electronic appliance is configured to receive information relating to the release of said one or more restricted functionalities from one or more host devices configured to execute a functionality restriction release program to release a restricted functionality of said electronic appliance, comprising:

a controller configured to cause, based on at least a portion of said information relating to the release of a said one or more restricted functionalities, the release of said one or more restricted functionalities.

15. (new) The electronic appliance of claim 14, wherein the controller is configured to automatically release said one or more restricted functionalities upon installation of the functionality restriction release program.

16. (new) The electronic appliance of claim 14, further comprising storage for information associated with said one or more host devices from which at least a portion of said information relating to the release of said one or more restricted functionalities was sent.

17. (new) A system for managing electronic appliance use, comprising:
a first electronic appliance having one or more restricted functionalities;
a host device connected to said first electronic appliance; and
wherein said host device is configured to execute a functionality restriction release program to release one or more restricted functionalities of said first electronic appliance.

18. (new) The system of claim 17, wherein the host device is configured to automatically release said one or more restricted functionalities upon installation of the functionality restriction release program.

19. (new) A method of releasing a restricted functionality of one or more electronic appliances connected to a host device configured to execute a functionality restriction release program to release said restricted functionality, comprising:

receiving at the host device information from a first electronic appliance regarding a restricted functionality of said first electronic appliance; and

determining, based on said information from said first electronic appliance, whether said restricted functionality of said first electronic appliance has been released so that said functionality may be used by said host device.

20. (new) A host device for operating an electronic appliance having one or more restricted functionalities:

wherein said host device is configured to execute a functionality restriction release program, the release program being configured to release one or more restricted functionalities of said electronic appliance; and

wherein said host device is configured to communicate with said electronic appliance with respect to the release of said one or more restricted functionalities of said electronic appliance.

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21. (new) The system of claim 20, wherein the host device is configured to automatically release said one or more restricted functionalities upon installation of the functionality restriction release program.